

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus being adapted to receive and open a container ~~one or more containers~~, each container having a mechanically openable door, comprising:

a frame including:

a first elongated strut and a second elongated strut, said first and second elongated struts each having a bottom portion; and

a structure secured to said bottom portion of both of said first and second elongated struts, said structure providing an exterior mounting surface, an interior mounting surface and a port door storage area located between said exterior mounting surface and said interior mounting surface;

a container advance assembly secured to said exterior mounting surface, said container advance assembly having a support plate being adapted to receive the container;

an isolation plate removably mounted to said first and second elongated struts, said isolation plate having an opening; and

a port door movable between a first position and a second position, said port door being adapted to couple with the mechanically openable door of the container; and

wherein at least one of said first and second elongated struts includes a guide mechanism for movably guiding said port door between said first position and said second position.

2. (Cancel)

3. (Previously Canceled)

4. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said isolation plate may be discretely removed from said frame.

5-7. (Previously Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus able to receive and open a container ~~one or more containers~~ each having a mechanically openable door, comprising:

a frame including:

a first elongated strut and a second elongated strut, said first and second elongated struts each having a front surface and a rear surface; and

a structure ~~secured to said first and second elongated struts, said structure~~ providing having an exterior mounting surface ~~that is~~ secured to said front surfaces of said first and second elongated struts, and an interior mounting surface ~~that is~~ secured to said rear surfaces of said first and second elongated struts, and providing a port door storage area located between said exterior mounting surface and said interior mounting surface;

a container advance assembly secured to said exterior mounting surface, said container advance assembly having a support plate being adapted to receive the container;

an isolation plate removably secured to said front surfaces of said first and second elongated struts, said isolation plate having an opening; and

a port door movable between said opening in said isolation plate ~~a first position~~ and said port door storage area ~~a second position~~, said port door being adapted to couple with the mechanically openable door of the container.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 8, further including a mechanism secured to said first strut, ~~said mechanism~~ for moving said port door between said opening ~~first~~ and said port door storage area ~~second positions~~.

10. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said container advance assembly is adapted to move said support plate substantially horizontally between a forward position and a rear position.

11-12. (Previously Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving ~~able to receive~~ and providing access to a ~~open two or more~~ workpiece stored in a container ~~containers, each container having a~~ mechanically openable door and able to store at least one workpiece, comprising:

a frame including:

- a first elongated strut, a second elongated strut and a third elongated strut, said first, second and third elongated struts each having a front surface and a rear surface; and
- a structure ~~secured to said first, second and third elongated struts, said structure~~ providing having an exterior mounting surface ~~that is~~ secured to said front surfaces of said first, second and third elongated struts; and an interior mounting surface ~~that is~~ secured to said rear surfaces of said first, second and third elongated struts, and providing a first port door storage area located between said exterior mounting surface and said interior mounting surface and said first and second elongated struts and a second port door storage area located between said exterior mounting surface and said interior mounting surface and said second and third elongated struts;
- a first container advance assembly having a support plate being adapted to receive a container, said first container advance assembly secured to said exterior mounting surface substantially between said first and second elongated struts;
- a second container advance assembly having a support plate being adapted to receive a container, said second container advance assembly secured to said exterior mounting surface substantially between said second and third elongated struts;
- an isolation plate removably secured to said front surfaces of said first, second and third elongated struts, said isolation plate having a first port opening located between said first and second elongated struts and a second port opening located between said second and third elongated struts; ~~and~~
- a first port door movable between said first port opening and said first port door storage area ~~a second position, said first port door being adapted to couple with the mechanically openable door of a container; and~~
- a second port door movable between said second port opening and a said second port door storage area ~~position, said second port door being adapted to couple with the mechanically openable door of a container.~~
- wherein said isolation plate may be discretely removed from said frame.

14. (Previously Canceled).

15. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein said isolation plate comprises a substantially transparent material.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 13, further including a first mechanism secured to said first elongated strut for moving said first port door between said first port opening and said first port door storage area ~~second position~~ and a second mechanism secured to said second elongated strut for moving said second port door between said second port opening and said second port door storage area ~~position~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim ~~4~~ 13, further including a workpiece handling robot for accessing workpieces stored in a first ~~each~~ container through said first port opening and a second container through said second port opening.